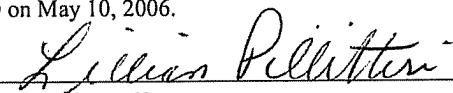


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 10, 2006.



Lillian Pillitteri

Application: U.S. National Phase Entry Under 35 U.S.C. §371 of PCT/EP2004/012302

Serial No.:

Filed:

Applicant: Hermann Neidlein

Title: ELECTRICAL CONNECTING APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This is a Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 115 canceling original claims 1-17 in favor of new claims 18-33. A Substitute Specification is enclosed together with a marked version showing changes made in the Substitute Specification. Fig. 1 is also amended. A new replacement sheet including Fig. 1 is enclosed. No new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment.